



Castles



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CASTLES

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A FIRST DISCOVERY BOOK



SCHOLASTIC INC.

New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney

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Hundreds of years ago,
in the Middle Ages,
the nobles of Europe
lived in large, well-protected castles.



The castles were fortresses
surrounded by high stone walls.

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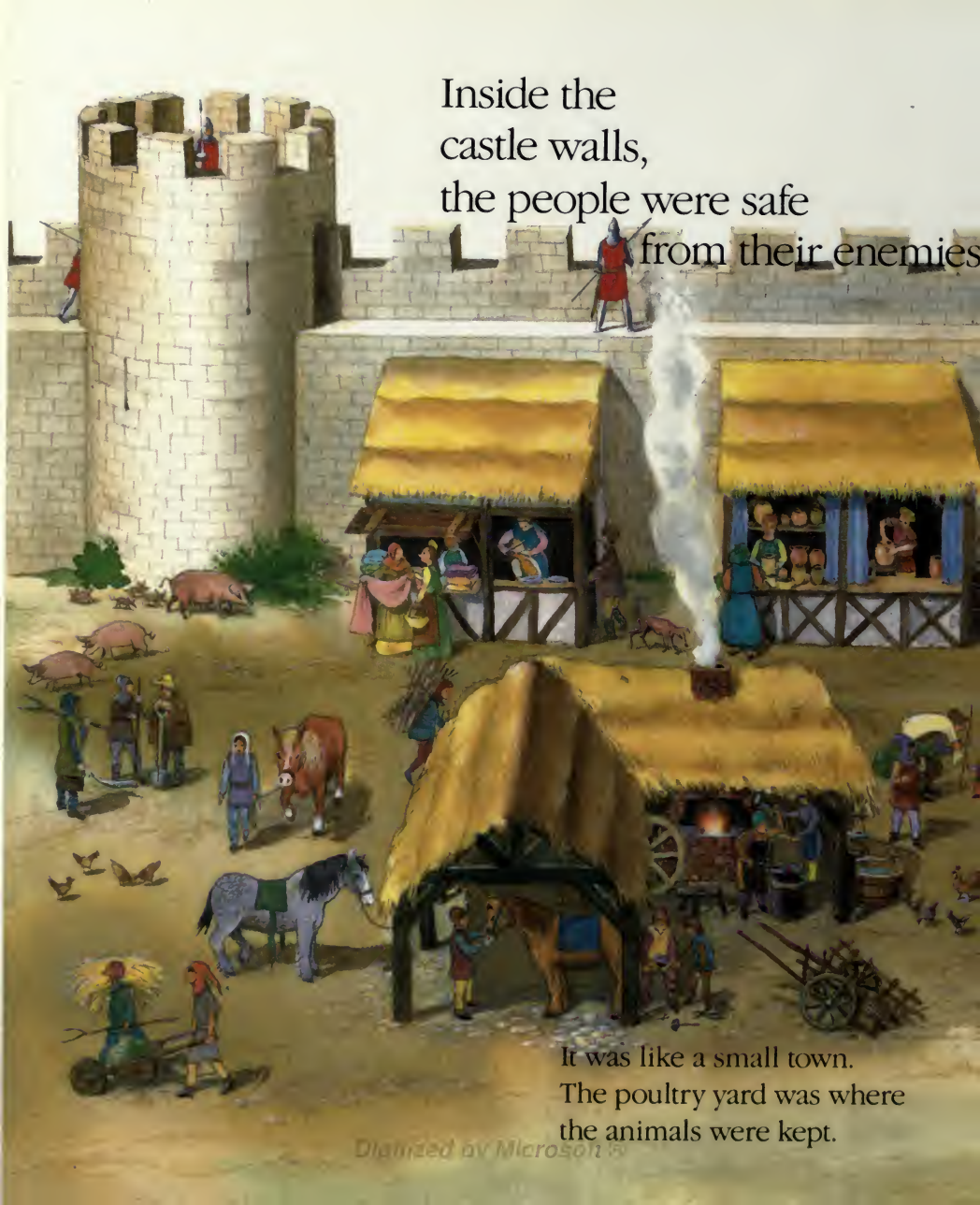
When visitors wished to enter the castle,
servants had to lower a drawbridge . . .



When visitors wished to enter the castle,
servants had to lower a drawbridge . . .



and raise a heavy iron gate
called a portcullis.



Inside the
castle walls,
the people were safe
from their enemies

It was like a small town.
The poultry yard was where
the animals were kept.







The nobleman's family lived in a round tower called a keep. Soldiers, skilled workers, servants, and their families also had homes within the castle walls.




There was no electricity, running water,
or heat. On cold nights the
whole family might . . .

The bedrooms
were decorated
with beautiful
tapestries.





A medieval-style bedroom. A large red bed with a gold fringe canopy is on the left. The headboard is a red tapestry with a gold floral pattern. Two people are sleeping in the bed. A yellow dog is lying on the floor in front of the bed. To the right of the bed is a stone wall with a torch mounted on it. Further right is a stone archway leading to a staircase. The floor is checkered.

The bedrooms
were decorated
with beautiful
tapestries.

sleep in one bed
to keep warm!



The gigantic stone ovens, fiery spits,
and boiling cauldrons
were going night and day!

The kitchen was
a busy place!



The servants prepared enough
fish, meat, bread, and cheese
for everyone in the castle.
The people ate few vegetables.

Lords and ladies
from
neighboring
castles . . .




Jugglers and jesters
made everyone laugh.

came to
feasts in
the great
hall.



Lords and ladies
from
neighboring
castles . . .





came to
feasts in
the great
hall.

But the most popular performers
were the trained bears.



Knights were the soldiers of their day.
They wore heavy armor made of iron.



A knight's metal armor was lined with soft quilting to protect his skin. The armor was so heavy, a knight needed help to mount his horse!



Knights often entertained the nobles with fighting contests called jousting tournaments.



The horses were protected from the swords and lances by their own armor.



Illustration by Michael P.

Sometimes war broke out between the nobles!



Illustration by M. J. M. J.



The enemy soldiers
climbed great
scaling ladders
to leap over
the castle wall!

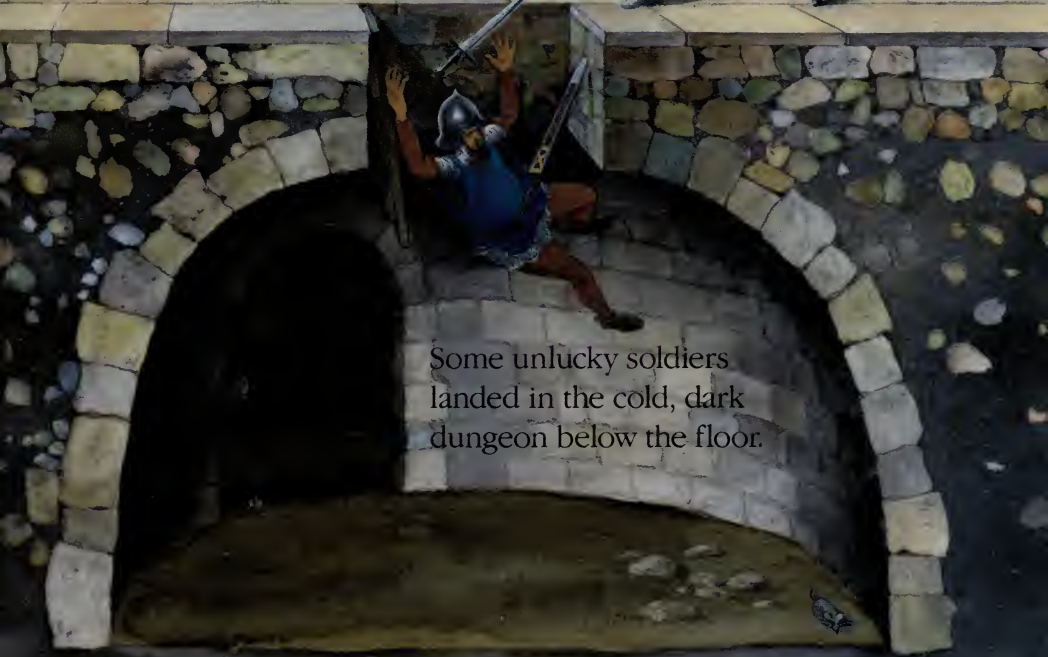




If the enemy succeeded in entering the castle, the soldiers fought hand to hand with shields, crossbows, swords, mace clubs, and axes!







Some unlucky soldiers
landed in the cold, dark
dungeon below the floor.

Today, many castles
are left in ruins.





But a few still exist.
You can see suits of armor,
weapons, and tapestries in museums.
And you can read exciting books
about the days of lords, ladies, and knights
in shining armor!

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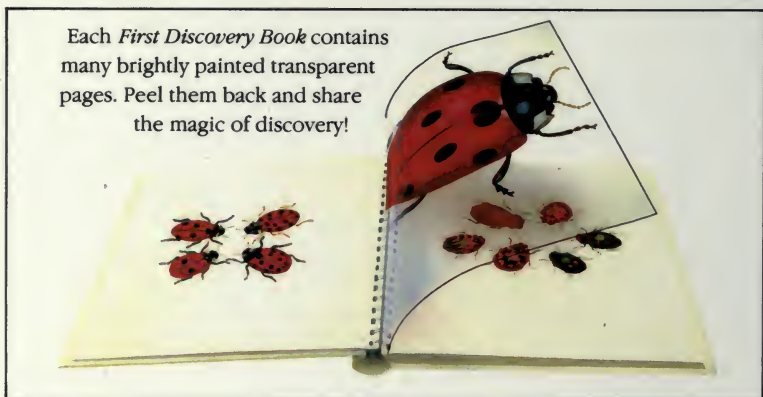
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In **CASTLES**, *A First Discovery Book*, young children can cross over a drawbridge to a medieval castle, peek inside the home of a nobleman, and watch as knights defend the castle!



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